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ANAKIN'S PODRACER

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The Boonta Eve Classic

Anakin's starfighters

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STAR WARS

"IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING!"

ANAKIN IS AS SURPRISED AS EVERYONE ELSE WHEN HIS PODRACER'S ENGINES WORK.

While there was no such thing as a standard Podracer (with every single one featuring unique modifications that took them far beyond the manufacturers' specifications), a Podracer built from scratch was unusual. One built and raced by a human child was unprecedented. That the same boy should then win the leading race of the professional-level Galactic Podracing Circuit in his self-built racer was utterly inconceivable.

ANAKIN SKYWALKER'S PODRACER

MODIFIED RADON-ULZER 620C

The Podracer built by nine-year-old Anakin Skywalker defied convention in many ways. It was built from scrap, it had an untested fuel system, and it was far smaller than was normal for Podracers seen in professional-level races. What cannot be argued against was the end result – one of the most outstanding Podracers ever built.

Working in a junkyard for a boss too lazy even to keep proper track of his stock has its advantages for a boy with a gift for tinkering and repair. Thanks to his connection to the Force, Anakin Skywalker was able to see the potential in even the most burnt-out components. His plucky precociousness allowed him to bargain hard for the things he needed, and by the time he was discovered by Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn, Anakin had built and rebuilt many marvels, including a functioning protocol droid. His pride and joy, however, was his Podracer.

Built from Scrap

The core of the racer was a pair of Radon-Ulzer 620C engines. Watto, Anakin's owner, had declared the engines worthless, burnt-out rubbish when he first got them. Anakin disposed of them as requested – actually taking them to the back of his home. From the two wrecked hulks Anakin managed to salvage one engine and the skeleton of another. He bartered for another engine of the same type from Jawas visiting Mos Espa, and so completed the second Radon-Ulzer. To these, Anakin added more salvaged parts – two turbines that were the only salvageable parts left from Watto's Podracer. Anakin had crashed it racing against Sebulba, when the despicable Dug had used an illegal flame emitter to burn out Watto's Podracer's engines. The turbines powered an eight-stage fuel

compression system that, when coupled with the fuel injectors Anakin designed himself, atomised the Tradium power fluid fuel (pre-mixed with injectrine) and distributed it evenly to the igniters. The result was a hugely fuel-efficient system that gave the Podracer incredible speed for its size – over 940km/h on the straights.

Staying In Control

Travelling faster than pretty much any other Podracer ever built was all fine and well, but without good control mechanisms it was a sure way to end up a dark smear on a canyon wall. The engines were fitted with thrust stabiliser cones at the rear to smooth out flight. Each of these were surrounded by thrust rings, which further tuned the outflow of energy that powered the pod forward. At the front of each engine was a three-pronged air scoop assembly, painted a lurid yellow. By trimming engine output, repulsorlift balance, and through use of the air scoops, Anakin had incredible control over his pod. He could even completely roll it over and not lose control. This agility was essential to the survival of both pilot and racer, as most other Podracers at the time were heavy and huge – all the better to ram their opponents off track and into the scenery.

CRASH AND BURN

ANAKIN IN THE BOONTA EVE CLASSIC

Quite how Qui-Gon Jinn managed to get him a place in the Boonta Eve event was something Anakin never knew, but, as his new friend was a Jedi Master, Anakin guessed the Force played a part. As he arrived at the course, young Skywalker was sure he'd finish the race at least.

Qui-Gon had clearly been discussing something with Watto, but Anakin and the others were quickly swept up in pre-race preparations, so it was only after the race the boy discovered that the Jedi had negotiated with the Toydarian for Anakin's freedom if the boy won. Anakin could never have contemplated this future as he and the others pushed his Podracer out onto the starting grid.

All Alone

While he readied his racer, connecting the control linkage cables to the engines, and as he reassured his mother he'd be safe, Anakin missed Sebulba sabotaging one of his engines. The two racers briefly exchanged insults before it was time for Anakin to get into his cockpit. Qui-Gon lifted him in, passing on a few last words of wisdom. Then Anakin was alone. His fate, and that of his friends, rested in his abilities both as a pilot and as an engineer. The pilots on the grid started their engines, and soon the air was full of the roars of podracers ready to gun down the Starlight Flats. Jabba started the race, and Anakin's engines promptly stalled!

The Race

While the crowd and the race announcer laughed at his predicament, Anakin coaxed his fuel-flooded engines back to life and he was off! Without the phenomenal speed of his unique engines, there was no way Anakin would have caught the other racers. But catch them he did, just as the last of them were leaving Mushroom Mesa and entering Ebe Crater Valley. By the time he reached Laguna Cave, Anakin had passed six others. In the cave itself, Anakin had a lucky escape when poor Ratts Tyerell fatally crashed

"Remember. Concentrate on the moment. Feel, don't think. Use your instincts."

Qui-Gon Jinn's advice to Anakin before the race

out, the resulting explosion chasing Anakin out of the caves. Immediately on exiting the cave, Anakin and a number of other racers were fired on by Tusken Raiders. But with no damage done, Anakin was on into the second lap, where he managed to move up into third place from sixth. Gasgano gave Skywalker some trouble, slamming into the Podracer's engines before Anakin rolled clean over Gasgano and passed him.

Sabotage!

Up ahead, Sebulba destroyed Mars Guo's Pod, and the flying debris knocked loose one of Anakin's control cables. In danger of crashing, Anakin managed to stabilise his flight and reconnect the cable. Skywalker quickly moved back up the field until, at the start of the third lap, he and Sebulba were duelling for the lead. Anakin managed to pass the Dug after Sebulba batted him off course, up a ramp and high into the air. Anakin nevertheless , stayed in control and caught up again on the Hutt Flats. More battering from Sebulba saw the Pods become entangled. Anakin boosted free, and it was Sebulba who crashed out. Against all odds, Anakin had won!

GARDULLA THE HUTT

NOT SO CUNNING

Formally known as Gardulla Besadii Kajidic the Elder, Gardulla was an early rival of Jabba Desilijic Tiure. Both had major holdings on Tatooine. Sadly for Gardulla, Jabba was far more cunning and clever. Compromised by an addiction to gambling, Gardulla's time as a major crime lord was brief by Hutt standards.

To her detriment, Gardulla's life was very much defined by two things – her gambling and her rivalry with Jabba. When together, the two Hutts were polite enough, with their rivalry being expressed in double-edged talk and gentle jibes. However, things degenerated over the years as the gangsters often found themselves on opposite sides of conflicts and deals – with Gardulla normally coming off worst.

Gipped By Jabba

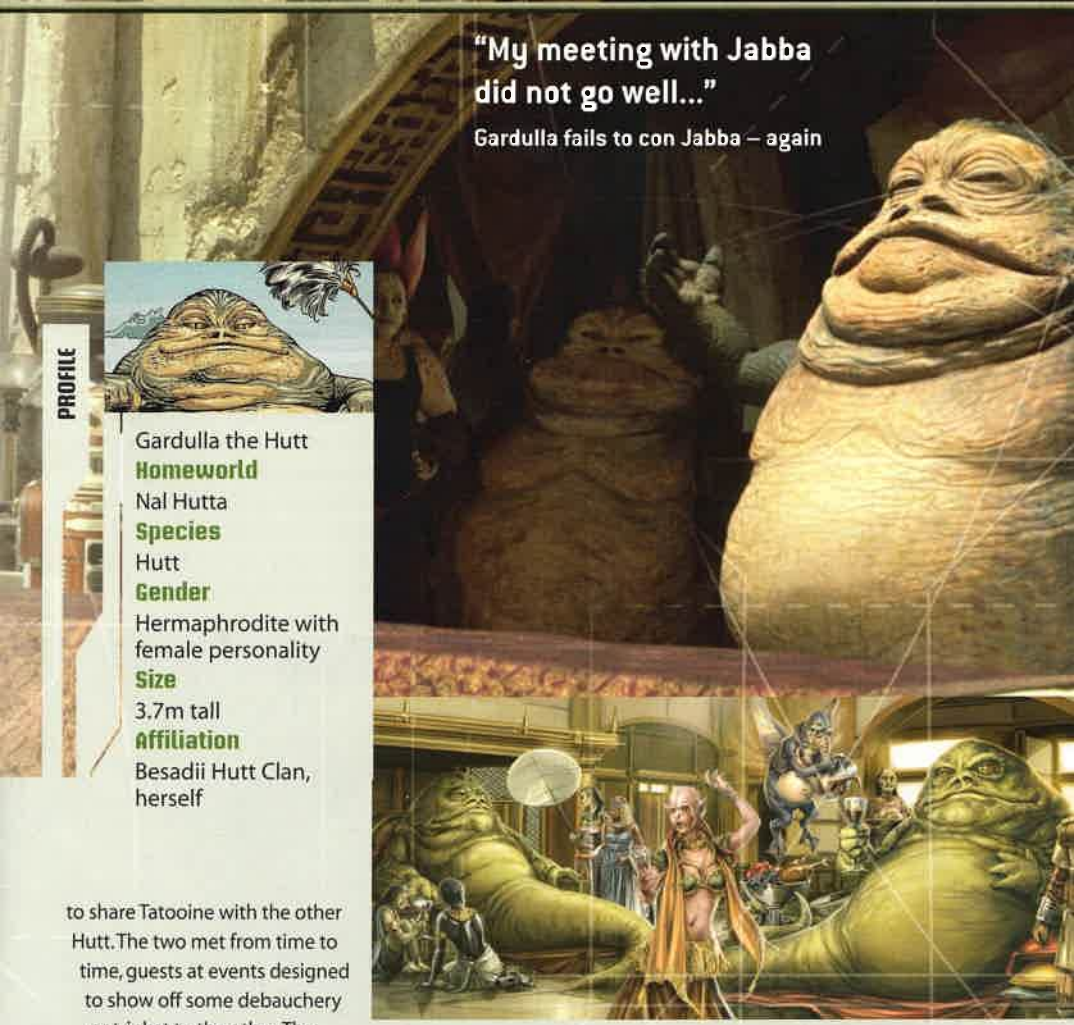
From her Tatooine fortress built into and out from rocky cliffs near the edge of the Dune Sea, Gardulla started out heavily dealing in slaves. Credits flowed in, but Gardulla was unable to keep hold of them. Her gambling addiction was out of control, and she came perilously close to utter financial ruin. Ironically, her rescuer was Jabba Desilijic. The deal he offered seemed to offer salvation, as Gardulla would massively expand her slavery operations. In fact, Jabba was setting Gardulla up for a fall. Thanks to inside information his rival was not party to, Jabba unloaded his slavery operations on Gardulla in advance of the Republic outlawing the practice in the Outer Rim Territories. The capture, prosecution and life imprisonment of Gardulla was a big media event, although Gardulla escaped incarceration after only a few years. She returned to Tatooine, but her former empire was in tatters.

Podracing Pain

Unable to prove that Jabba had conned her, Gardulla was forced

"My meeting with Jabba did not go well..."

Gardulla fails to con Jabba – again



PROFILE

Gardulla the Hutt

Homeworld

Nal Hutta

Species

Hutt

Gender

Hermaphrodite with female personality

Size

3.7m tall

Affiliation

Besadii Hutt Clan, herself

to share Tatooine with the other Hutt. The two met from time to time, guests at events designed to show off some debauchery or trinket to the other. The annual Boonta Eve Classic, which Jabba occasionally hosted, was a regular meeting place. Before the race at which Anakin Skywalker lost his freedom, Gardulla tried and failed to get Jabba to bet on Gasgano to win. The plot failed, though both Hutts lost when they bet on Sebulba to win. Jabba, however, still made money through gambling surcharges levied during the event. This would be the last 'friendly' competition between Gardulla and Jabba.

Tusken Entanglement

The competition between Jabba and Gardulla the Hutts took a distinctly nasty turn a little while after the Boonta Eve event. With the Hutt clans favouring the successful Jabba to run all operations on Tatooine, Gardulla was forced into a desperate gamble. Jabba had stirred up the Tusken Raiders many years before, with the resulting attacks on settlers pushing them to buy weapons from Jabba for defence against the Sand

People. Gardulla decided to destroy the Tuskens, sending the bounty hunter Aurra Sing to kill Sharad Hett, the Tusken's leader and a former Jedi. Though Sing was successful, she was also a double agent for Jabba. Gardulla's plan failed, her forces routed, and she retreated to her fortress in the desert.

Last Flourishing

Gardulla's fortunes had a brief resurgence a few years later. The leader of the Bando Gora cult, fallen Jedi Komari Vosa, negotiated a transportation deal with Gardulla. The Hutt's freighters shipped neurotoxins from the Bando Gora base on the Bogden burial moon of Kohlma to Vosa's contact on Malastare – King Sebolto the Dug. The toxins were turned into a potent version of death sticks, a hallucinogenic drug that allowed the cult to recruit many resultant addicts. These 'converts' were transported to Kohlma on Gardulla's transports. The deal worked very well for Gardulla, but it also made her an unwitting target of the wrath of Darth Sidious. The Sith Lord had ordered the destruction of the Bando Gora, and his apprentice, Darth Tyranus, sent Jango Fett to do the job. Fett, seeking the location of the Bando Gora base, infiltrated Gardulla's palace. Holding Gardulla at gunpoint, Jango was told about Kohlma. He then pushed Gardulla off a balcony and into the gaping maw of her pet canyon krayt dragon.

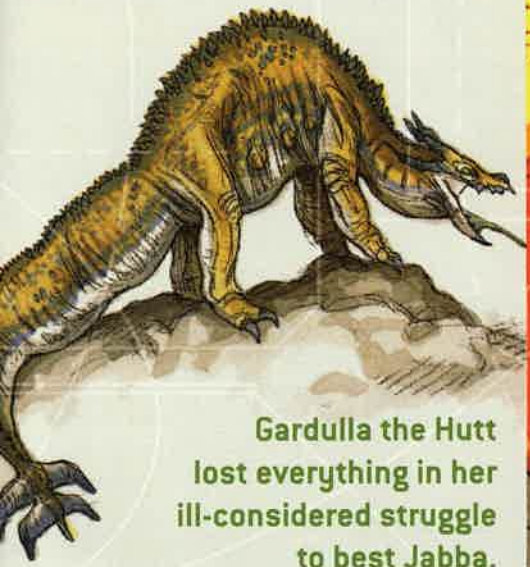
"SEE THE BIG WORM ON THE SKIFF? THAT'S GARDULLA THE HUTT. GARDULLA CONTROLS LOTS OF BUSINESSES ON TATOOINE AND WOULD PREFER TO CONTROL THEM ALL!
"THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IN THE WAY. ANOTHER HUTT. A CRAFTY SLUG NAMED JABBA.
"THE HUTTS HAVE PLANS FOR THIS PLANET. JABBA KNOWS IT.

Dealing With Ziro

During the Clone Wars, the Hutt Council had to deal with Ziro the Hutt, who had been caught trying to kill a fellow Hutt – Jabba's nephew. Ziro also had a diary detailing the criminal operations of the five Hutt clans. Gardulla, on Jabba's behalf, was one of the representatives who dispatched Cad Bane to kill Ziro and get the diary, only to have Jabba's own agent beat Bane to the kill and the book. Gardulla had lost to Jabba again.

Low Profile

The huge lizard swallowed Gardulla whole. This proved to be a fatal error for the krayt, as Hutts were known for their incredibly tough skin. Jango Fett didn't stick around to see the krayt roaring and thrashing about as Gardulla wreaked terrible internal injuries on the beast. The dragon died, though Gardulla was unable to get herself out – the dragon had a tough hide too. Instead, a few of the Hutt's remaining loyal staff discovered the rippling corpse of the reptile and cut Gardulla free. To complete her humiliation, with the Bando Gora cult destroyed, the now all but bankrupt Gardulla of the Clan Besadii was reduced to working for Jabba of the Clan Desilijic as his representative at formal Hutt gatherings.



Gardulla the Hutt lost everything in her ill-considered struggle to best Jabba.

TWILIGHT

ANAKIN SKYWALKER'S G9 RIGGER FREIGHTER

From being simply a barely useful escape vehicle, the battered, outdated old G9 Rigger Freighter he found on Teth became a regular (if incongruous) fixture around Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker while he served the Republic during the Clone Wars.

Seemingly cornered by the advancing forces of Asajj Ventress on a ledge outside an old B'omarr monastery on Teth, Asoka Tano and Anakin Skywalker were alerted to a distant landing pad by a baby Hutt that Asoka was carrying in a pack on her back. On the pad, was an old junker of a freighter, barely held together, was being readied to leave. Anakin ended up flying the freighter to Tatooine. There, shot down by CIS fighters, it looked like the desert sands would soon swallow another victim. However, Anakin decided to salvage the freighter that had given its all to assist him. Ultimately, Skywalker used the ship, re-christened *Twilight*, whenever he needed a more subtle approach.

Long History

The G9 Riggers were freighters designed and constructed by the Corellian Engineering Corporation. The range was long obsolete by the outbreak of the Clone Wars, being the first of their class to carry a hyperdrive. However, being a Corellian ship, this junker's appearances could be deceptive. The freighter had been owned by various smugglers, and the last was Ziro the Hutt. As a result, it had been heavily modified. Anakin found it far faster than it had a right to be – something that always appealed to the former Podracer. While the hold wasn't big (it could just carry Anakin's Delta-7B *Aethersprite* fighter), it did have additional shielded spice-smuggling cargo holds. The ship was armed too. Most obviously, it carried three heavy blaster cannons and a rotating laser cannon turret. To Anakin's later surprise, the ship also had a well-concealed torpedo launcher system.

Twilight PROFILE

Type
G9 Rigger Freighter

Manufacturer
Corellian Engineering Corporation

Size
34.1m long, 16.9m wide, 15.73m high

Weapons
3x heavy blaster cannons, 1x laser cannon turret (periscope control), 1x torpedo launcher

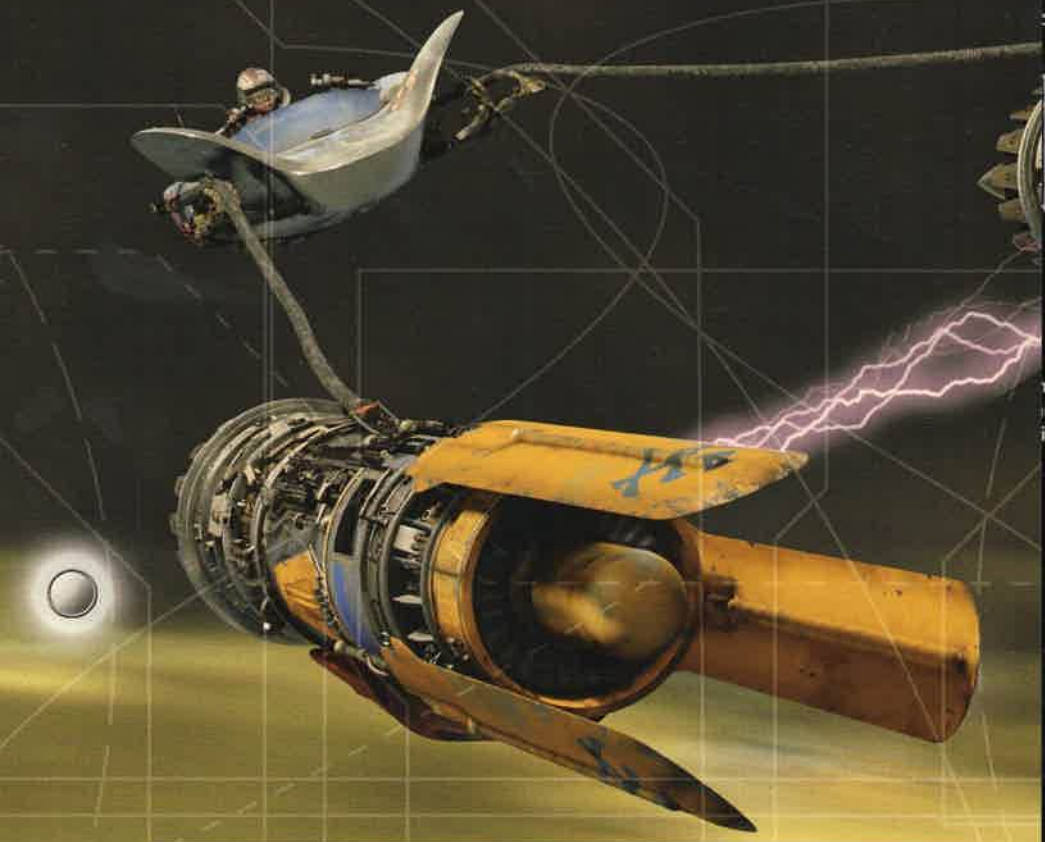
Additional Systems
Holographic medical droid

Crew
2 to 4

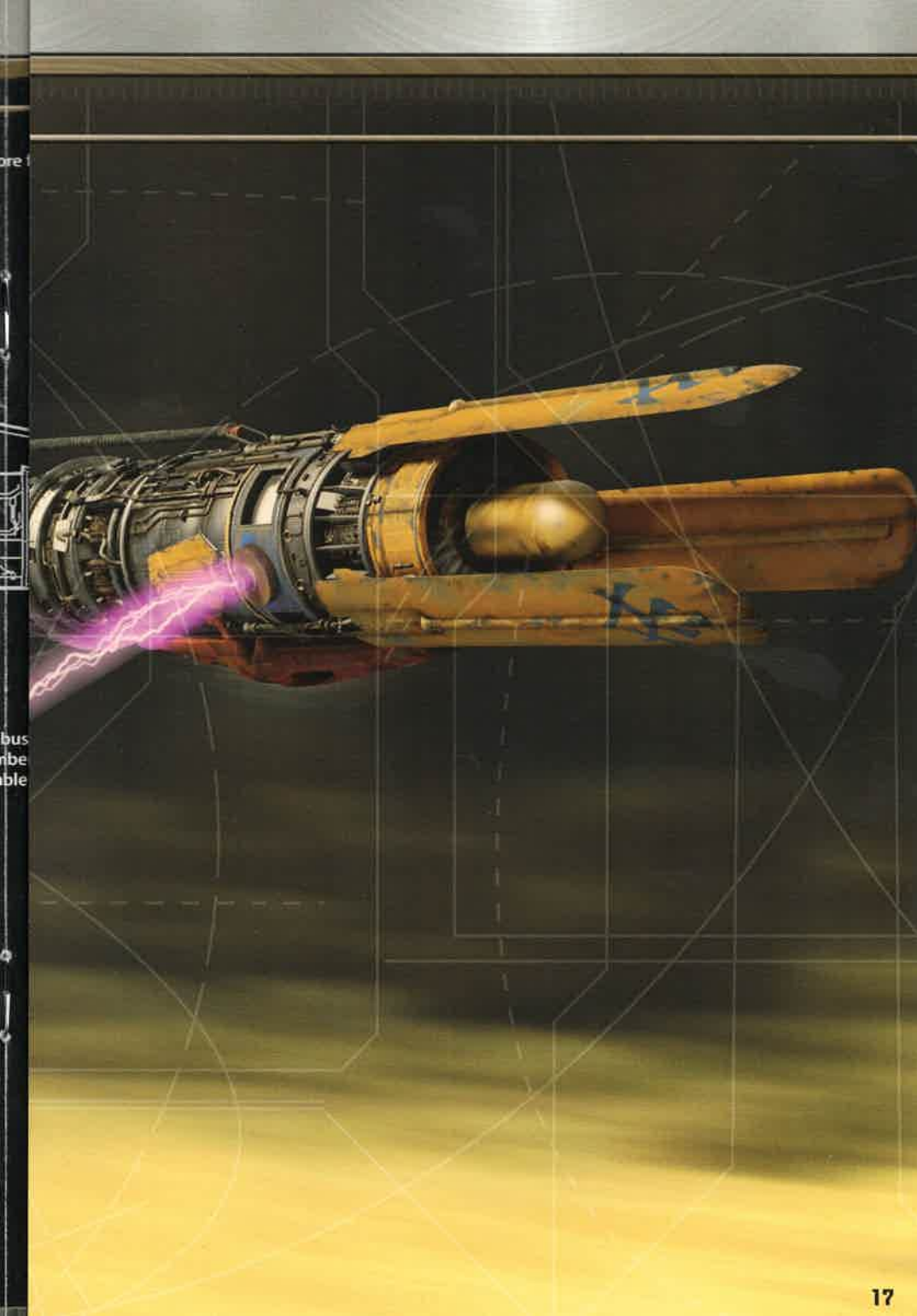
Passengers
6

ANAKIN'S PODRACER

BOONTA EVE CLASSIC – A LATE ENTRY



Though Anakin never knew it, Qui-Gon Jinn had managed to trick Watto into paying for Anakin to race in the Boonta Eve Podrace. The Toydarian's influence guaranteed the late entry went through with the minimum of fuss, but Anakin's entry was greeted with derision by many, despite the boy having raced well in the past.



ANAKIN'S PODRACER

Type
Radon-Ulzer 620C Podracer (very heavily modified)

Manufacturer
Radon-Ulzer/Anakin Skywalker

Size
Cockpit 3.15m long, engines 7m long

Engines
2x heavily modified Radon-Ulzer 620C racing engines

Maximum Speed
947km/h

Flight Ceiling
105m

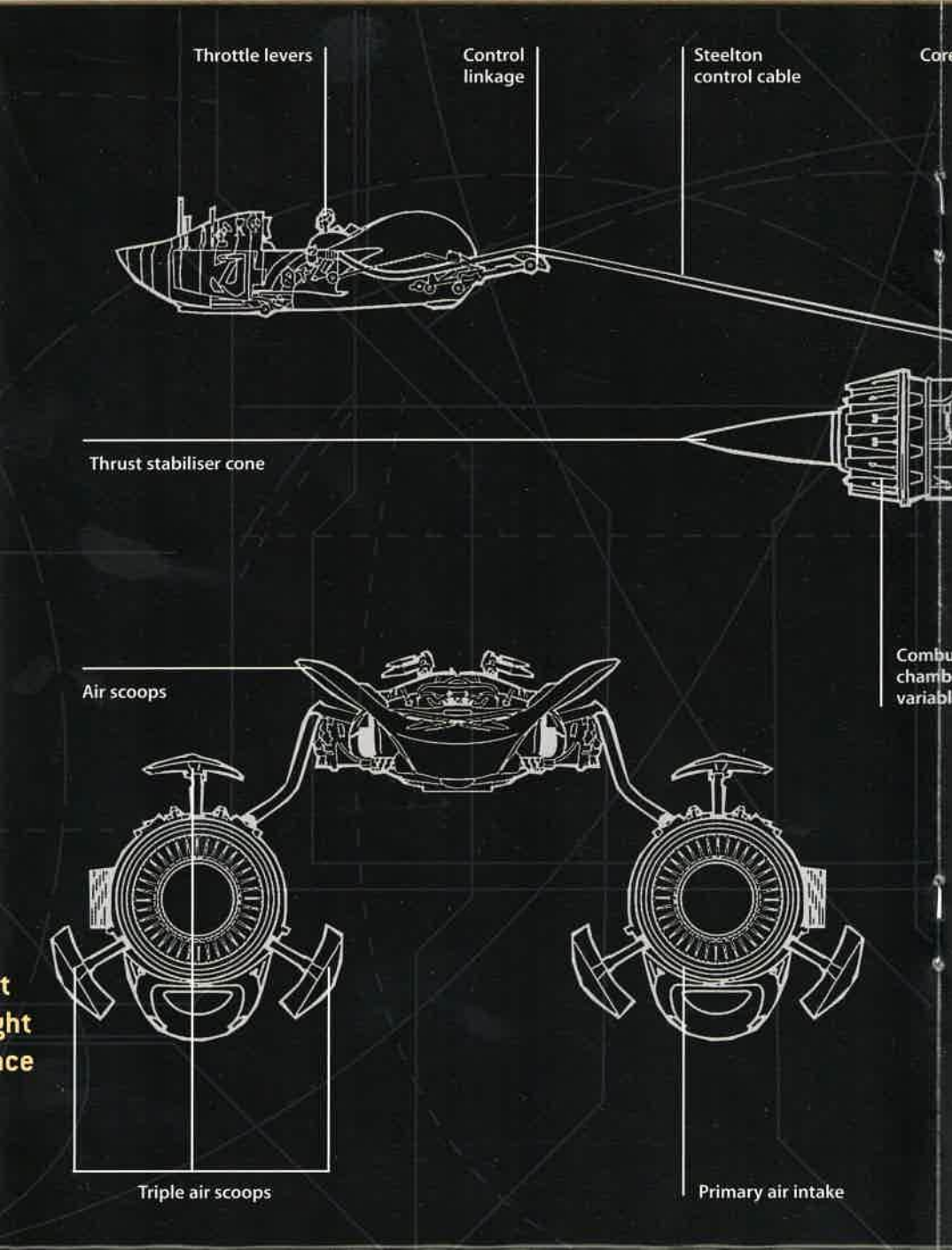
Weapons
None (later fitted with flame emitter by Sebulba)

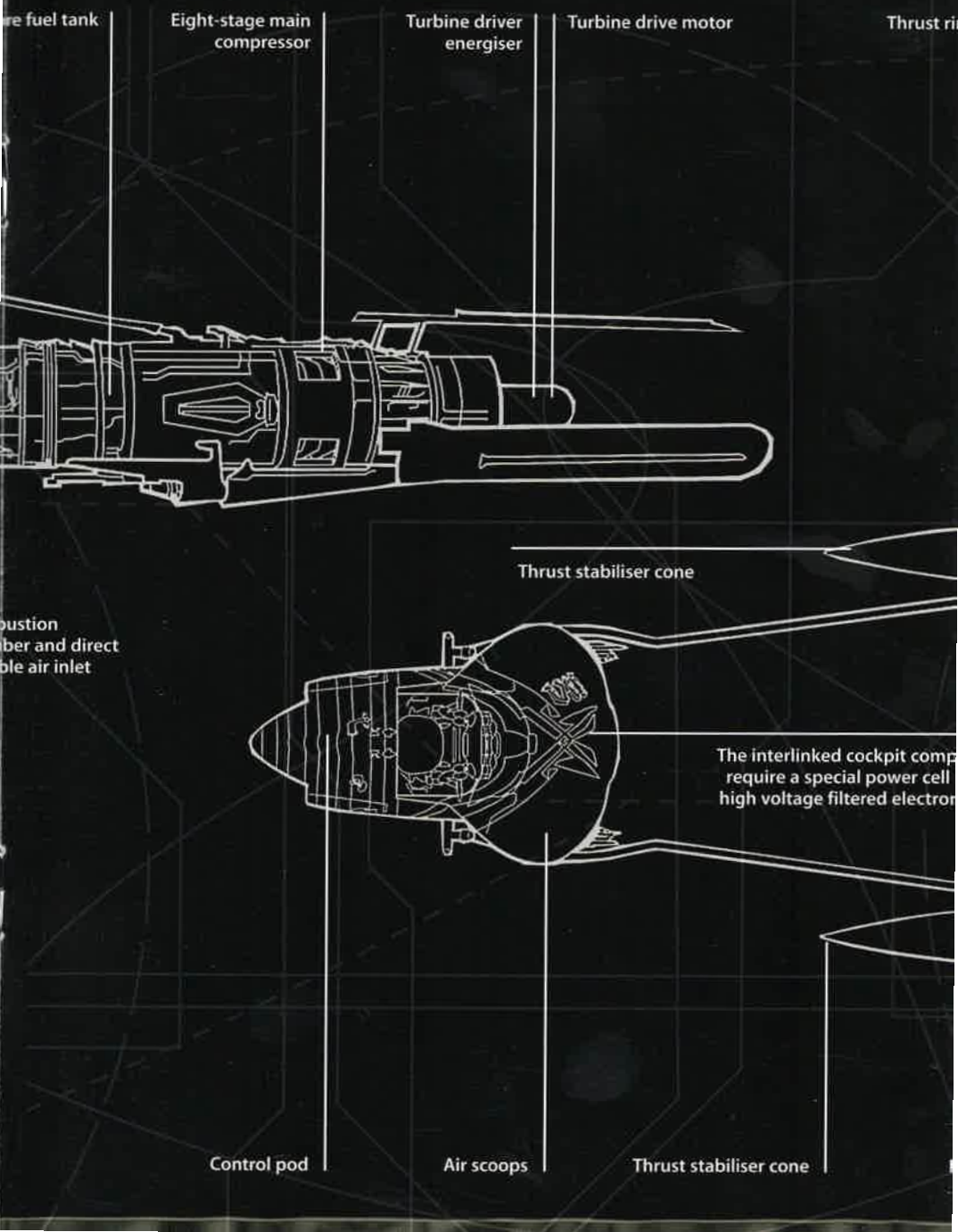
Crew
1x pilot

Passengers
None

Affiliation
Anakin Skywalker, Sebulba

Sebulba was easily winning the final of the Vinta Harves Classic with Anakin's former podracer when he was caug in a battle between Jedi and forces trying to disrupt pea negotiations with the terrorist group Red Iaro. However, Sebulba was still able to finish the race in first place.


Throttle levers
Control linkage
Steelton control cable
Thrust stabiliser cone
Air scoops
Triple air scoops
Primary air intake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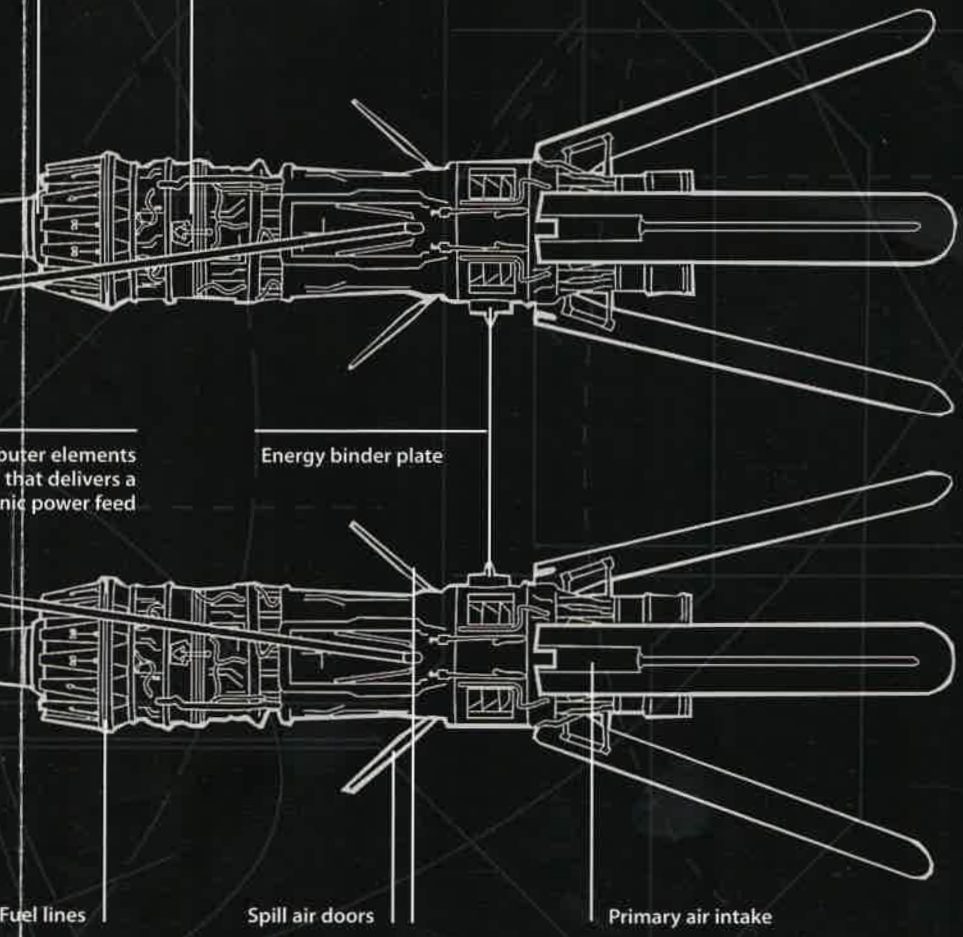
high voltage filtered electron
Control pod
Air scoops
Thrust stabiliser cone

Indisputably Sebulba's Podracer

While commentator Fodesinbeed Annodue was presenting *The Fode and Beed Show* immediately after the Boonta Eve Classic, the Troig cheekily commented that it was unlikely Sebulba would race on Malastare. Sebulba burst into the studio to announce that he *would* compete, and with his new Podracer – the one Anakin Skywalker had just won the Boonta with, which Sebulba had bought fair and square. At the Vinta Harvest Classic on Malastare, Sebulba showed off the repainted Podracer and easily won his qualifiers. Just before the final race, he demonstrated that he'd made a few modifications of his own to Anakin's racer. Mocked by Teemto Pagalies, the Dug used the hidden flame emitter to flash burn his opponent in the back.



BOONTA EVE CLASSIC PODRACERS

THE SLOW, THE MISSING & THE DEAD

Of the 18 racers who competed in the Boonta Eve Classic that saw Anakin Skywalker win his freedom and beat the favourite, Sebulba, only seven racers completed the course. What became of the others?

Non-Starter

At the very start of the race, both Anakin and Ben Quadinaros stalled. While Anakin got started, Quadinaros didn't. His Podracer had been sabotaged by Ark 'Bumpy' Roose, on the orders of Gardulla the Hutt's servant, Diva. Roose had mistaken Quadinaros' pod for Anakin's, as he'd seen neither before. Quadinaros' power couplings failed, his engines flew apart, and his race was over. However, he still won five million wupiupi from Boles Roor, who foolishly wagered that Ben wouldn't even enter the race.

Lap One

During the first lap, Sebulba took out Mawhonic, though the Gran racer survived the spectacular crash. Sadly, family man Ratts Tyerell wasn't so lucky. His accelerator jammed going into the treacherous Laguna cave, and only pieces of the Podracer (plus a big explosion) made it out the other side.

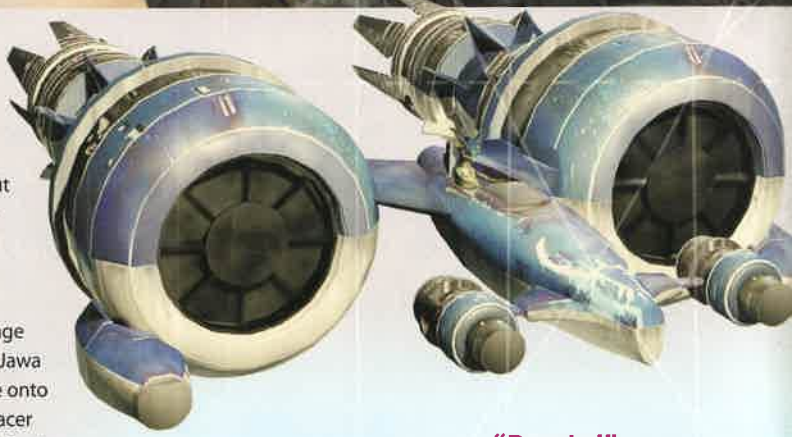
Lap Two

At the end of the first lap, Ody Mandrell pulled into the pit lane for a quick tune-up. A misunderstanding between his pit droids saw one of them sucked into the engine. That was the end of Mandrell's race. Neva Kee from Xagobah had a more mysterious exit. Towards the end of the lap, on the Hutt Flats, he simply veered off the course and vanished entirely. His ultimate fate remains a mystery. Prior to that, Mars Guo, who had been pushing Sebulba hard for the lead, was taken out of the race when the Dug threw something from his cockpit into Guo's engine. Mars survived, but only just. Meanwhile, Sand People had taken to camping out on the cliffs above Canyon Dune Turn. They took pot-shots at passing racers, and Teemto

Pagalies fell victim to this. He lost an engine, and his cockpit spun off, but he survived to race again – minus both ears!

Lap Three

On the final lap, Wan Sandage explosively encountered a Jawa sandcrawler that had come onto the course to look for Podracer scrap too early. Meanwhile, Dud Bolt and 'Bumpy' Roose crashed into each other in The Coil thanks to Bolt. He was paid by Sebulba to take out other racers, but hadn't intended to wipe himself out too. Sandage, Bolt and Roose all survived, though while Bolt recuperated from his injuries, Sebulba ditched him and hired Aldar Beedo instead. Sebulba, of course, was another non-finisher. His aggressive assaults on Anakin Skywalker's pod led to the Dug crashing out.



"Poodu!"

Sebulba crashes out

SKYWALKER CHOP-SHOP

ANAKIN'S CUSTOM STARSHIPS

The Podracer Anakin built in his backyard on Tatooine established a pattern in his life. While he tinkered with droids, his passion was for flying. As soon as he had access to a Jedi starfighter, he began to make modifications. The results were influential craft that performed far beyond their maker's specifications.

Jedi were not meant to foster attachments, or have frivolous possessions, and were certainly not meant to celebrate links to their past lives before they became part of the Order. However, Anakin received some encouragement in his customisation of his starfighters from Jedi Master Saesee Tiin. Master Tiin saw that there was potential to incorporate some of Anakin's ideas in future generations of Jedi starfighters.

The *Azure Angel*

Starting out as a standard Kuat Systems Engineering Delta-7 *Aethersprite*-class light interceptor, Anakin's first Jedi starfighter was by far the most regularly modified of his starships – excluding the amount of maintenance time Skywalker was forced to spend on the *Twilight*. The *Azure Angel*, a name alluding to Anakin's wife Padmé, was faster and more manoeuvrable than the standard Delta-7, and was better armed. It had four laser cannons instead of two, and a proton torpedo launcher. The modified hull was painted in colours recalling the cockpit of Anakin's old Podracer – something that concerned his Master, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Lastly, the *Azure Angel* also had a hyperdrive. Skywalker used this to pursue Asajj Ventress to Yavin IV, where the fighter craft was destroyed. He built a second fighter craft, the *Azure Angel II*, which survived the Clone Wars mainly because a new breed of fighter craft came along.

The *Blade of Dorin*

When the *Azure Angel* was lost on Yavin IV, Anakin spent some time flying the new KSEY Delta-7B *Aethersprite*-class starfighters. His personal fighters had regularly upgraded weapons systems, including a torpedo launcher as with the Delta-7. At one point during the Clone Wars, while on the hunt for General Grievous' flagship, the *Malevolence*, Skywalker gifted a heavily modified Delta-7B to Jedi Master Plo Koon. Koon's new fighter craft, painted blue and white

Anakin's work on his starfighter *Azure Angel* was in part born of habit, but was also a distraction from the frustration he felt being apart from his wife, Padmé Amidala.

Though Anakin was criticised for having painted his Delta-7 craft to suit himself, by the Clone Wars many other Jedi fashioned unique colour schemes for their craft.

The TIE Advanced x1

Darth Vader was heavily involved in the creation of the TIE x1 Advanced starfighter, working with Sienar Fleet Systems engineers to bring to bear the years of experience he had as a fighter pilot and engineer. While the fighter was not put into large scale production, in part because of its cost and in part because of petty resistance from jealous Imperial Navy commanders, Vader made extensive use of the ship for personal travel as well as for combat duties.

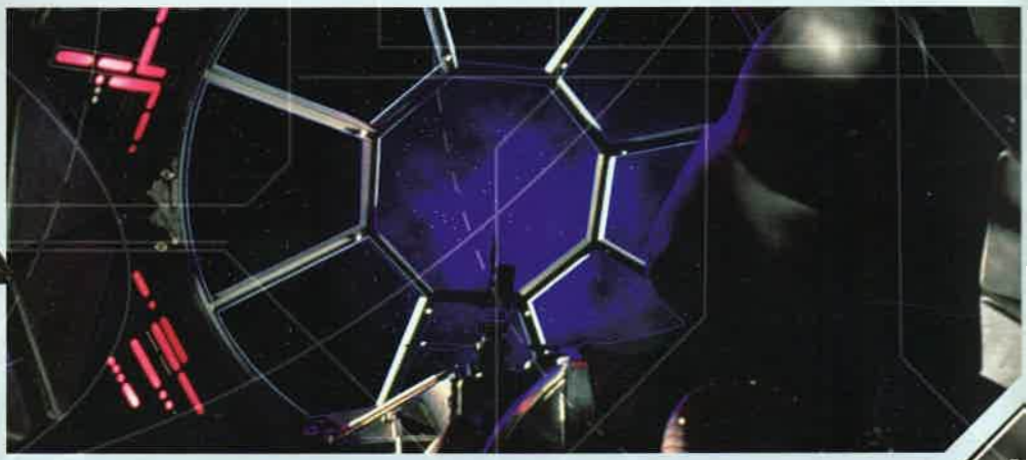
much as the *Azure Angel* had been, was called the *Blade of Dorin*, and a grateful Master Plo flew it for many years during the Clone Wars. It lacked the torpedo launcher, but otherwise significantly outperformed the standard Delta-7B model. Plo Koon's fighter even had its own colour-co-ordinated hyperspace docking ring.

Anakin's Eta-2 *Actis*-Class Light Interceptor

Painted in the same lurid yellow as the engines on his old Podracer had been, Anakin's Eta-2 interceptor replaced the *Aethersprite* fighters he had been flying previously. However, Anakin did not make the same performance and weapons upgrades on the Eta-2 as he had done on previous fighters. This was, perhaps, because the ship already carried sufficient weapons and was both fast and agile enough to satisfy Skywalker. It may also have been because much of his attention was taken by the *Twilight*. Anakin flew a prototype of the Eta-2 in combat, and his experiences moulded the development of the fighter. Later feedback from Jedi pilots led to additional variants, including some that were fitted with shields and better armour.

Darth Vader's Sith Starfighter

The Eta-2 Actis starfighters were one of a number of craft that saw extensive use by the Imperial Navy in the early years of the Empire. Darth Vader made some use of the ships, with his personal craft painted matt black. Though Anakin had very much enjoyed flying the Eta-2 starfighters, as Darth Vader he found the experience less than comfortable. His bulky armour, helmet and life support systems meant the cockpit was an uncomfortable fit. Eventually, on talking delivery of his new TIE Advanced x1 prototype, Vader abandoned the Eta-2 and passed his personal craft over to an Imperial agent.



CREATING THE PODRACE

BRINGING IT TOGETHER

Bringing *Star Wars*: Episode I – *The Phantom Menace* to the big screen required close co-operation between a number of departments within LucasFilm. This was never more true than for one of the key sequences of the film – the Podrace on Tatooine.

The Podrace itself has its origin in the car races that were a big part of writer/director George Lucas' early life. It was to real-life racing that all departments involved in the sequence first turned. This was particularly important when it came to working out Podracer crashes, as the creators had to study both the crashing cars and the effect they had on the scenery. While Computer Graphics Supervisor Habib Zargarpour developed an intricate dynamics simulation to track the many hundreds of pieces of debris – both from the Podracers and the scenery. That technology was combined with traditional miniatures, other digital creations and live action elements to fashion the thrilling race.

Biblical Proportions

The Mos Espa arena, echoing the classic chariot race of the *Ben Hur* film, was realised as a miniature based on designs by Doug Chiang, and also as a digital creation created by scanning the miniature. This also worked in reverse, with digital creations being manufactured through a computer-controlled milling machine. The result was, as Model Supervisor Steve Gawley said, "... a fantastic marriage between models and digital. Practical plus digital equals the future."

Plotting the Animatics

For an intricate sequence like the Podrace, shot-by-shot animatics were created digitally. By pre-visualising scenes digitally, often using graphics created from Art

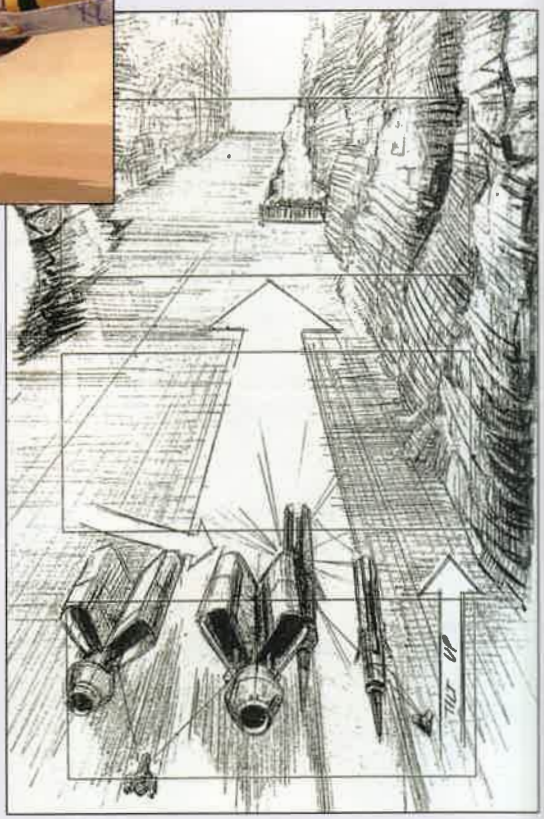
Department resources that would have easily graced high-end videogames of the time, Lucas was able to save time and money later on in both live-action filming and the creation of full-on digital sequences. Not everything at this stage was CGI, however. Robert Barnes built a foam model of Sebulba and a mock-up of the Dug's cockpit to shoot some videomatics to help further visualise the Podrace.

Drivers To Your Vehicles

The various Podracers were first built as one-eighth-scale models and then scanned to create the digital models. These were closely based on designs from Doug Chiang, Jay Shuster, Gavin Bocquet and others. Shuster was given the job of crafting unique colour schemes for each Podracer, to make sure that they were easily recognisable in the fast-moving chaos of the race.

Bringing It All Together

After all the efforts of ILM and the film crew on location and in the studio, the Podrace on Tatooine combines digital and model Podracers, flying through environments that are a combination of digital paintings, CGI environments, miniature model sets, and both live-action and CGI pilots. All mix together seamlessly to thrill the audience.



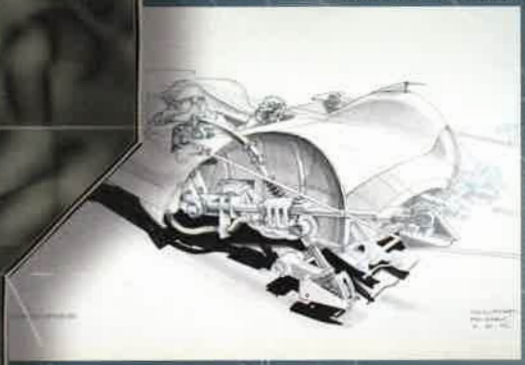
Sounds Great

George Lucas described the Podracers as "two jet engines and a cockpit", but Sound Designer Ben Burtt didn't go down the obvious route to create the distinctive noise of the racing machines. "The Podracers look like jet engines, but I've opted for popping sounds. Some have high-pitched, race-car gear shifts, others are strange, synthesised motors."

ANAKIN'S PODRACER

TWIN-ENGINED FUN

BUILDING ANAKIN'S PODRACER



1 The original design featured large mechanical arms that accentuated Anakin's own movements.

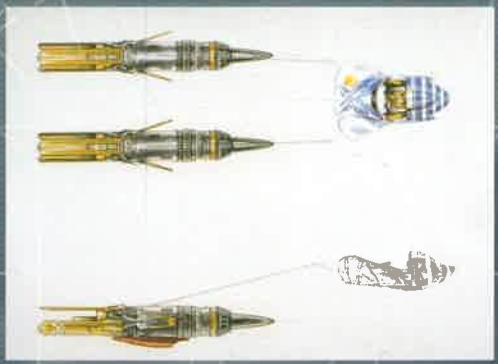
2 This dramatic production painting, which was done by Doug Chiang...

5 A full-sized version of Anakin's Podracer cockpit was built for live-action filming.

6 During filming in Tunisia, the racers were among many set elements badly damaged in a storm.

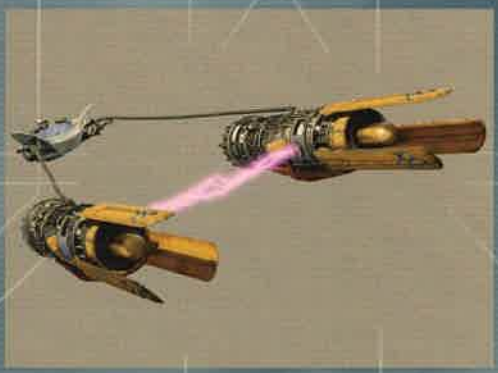
"George is a big race car fan, so in my mind I created the perfect, imaginary race car, then modified it for Anakin's cockpit. Its front fenders became air foils and control arm shields which would nicely frame Anakin in a shot. I added the hyper-mechanical elements, and the sloped headrest, and finished the back end with airbrakes and a classic ducktail." Jay Shuster

3 ... led to a digital model by Dave Dozoretz. The cockpit design eventually became Gasgano's.



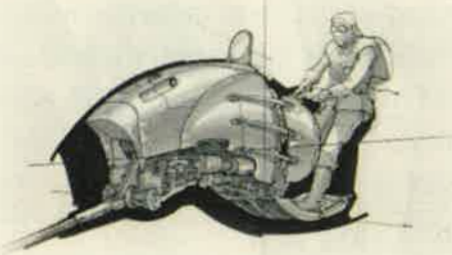
4 Jay Shuster developed the colour schemes for all the Podracers, allowing them to be easily identified.

7 Models were built of all the Podracers, including Anakin's, at 1:8 scale.



8 A digital version was created from the model, here with a CGI Anakin piloting the Podracer.

DID YOU KNOW?



1 What other Episode 1 vehicle influenced Doug Chiang's early Podracer designs?

2 Which Podracer finished the Boonta Eve Classic in seventh place – sort of?

3 The original design for Anakin's Pod went to which other Podracer pilot instead?

ANSWERS:

1. Doug Chiang had been working on the STAPs, so his early designs for the Podracers had the pilots standing up as though on jet skis. Director George Lucas asked for more protective cockpits.

2. Clegg Holdfast, the Nosaurian freelance journalist, crashed on Lap Two, flamed by Sebulba. He used his influence to have it officially logged that he actually finished seventh – last place behind the other surviving racers.

3. The original pod design went to the Xexto racer, Gasgano. He came second in the Boonta Eve Classic that Anakin won.

YAG'DUHL – ZONAMA SEKOT

Yag'Duhl

Region: Inner Rim Territories
System: Yag'Dhul System

The three moons of the homeworld of the Givin people dragged its atmosphere around the barren planet, so the Givin could survive in a vacuum for a standard day by sealing their bodies against depressurisation. The planet joined the CIS in the Clone Wars.

Yavin IV

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Yavin System

The fourth moon of the gas giant Yavin was a Sith fortress for Naga Sadow, Freedon Nadd and Exar Kun. Its temples were built by the Massassi and were later used by the Rebel Alliance and Luke Skywalker's Jedi Academy before the Yuuzhan Vong destroyed them.

Ylesia

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Cha Raaba System

This world was owned and controlled by the Besadii Hutt, chief rivals of Jabba the Hutt's Desilijic clan. It was the major processing world for producing spice. Raw spice, mined on Ryloth or Kessel, was refined on Ylesia and then shipped for distribution to Nar Shaddaa and elsewhere.

Zeltros

Region: Inner Rim Territories
System: Zel System

This temperate world was home to the party-loving, near-human Zeltrons, who exuded pheromones so concentrated that no visitor could resist joining in the decadent celebration. It was invaded a number of times, but the invaders inevitably just joined in the parties.

Zhar

Region: Outer Rim Territories
System: Zhar System

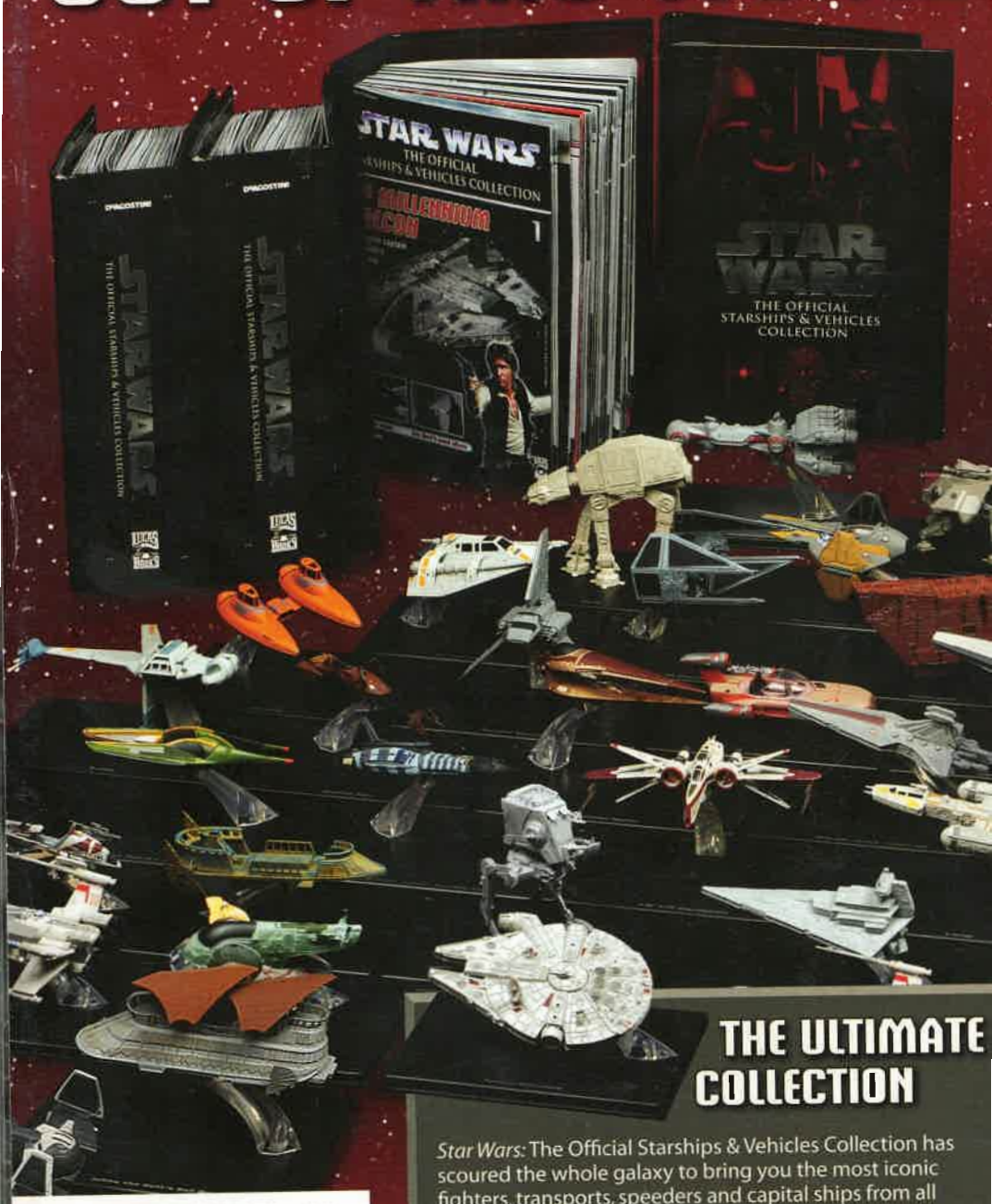
Zhar was a gas giant orbited by 12 moons. Two, Gall and Kile, were large enough for an atmosphere breathable by humans. Gall was the site of an Imperial outpost, and was attacked by Rogue Squadron in an effort to rescue the carbon-frozen Han Solo from Boba Fett.

Zonama Sekot

Region: Varied
System: Varied

This unique world was a living planet able to travel through hyperspace. During the time of the Old Republic, it vanished into the Unknown Regions. It returned in the Yuuzhan Vong invasion and helped resolve the conflict, with the Vong resettling on the planet before it departed again.

OUT OF THIS WORLD



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